

# The Daily Courant.

Tuesday, April 19, 1709.

London, April 19.

**I**N Yesterday's Courant I quoted a Passage from *the Fable of the Lyon's Share* verifi'd, &c. to shew what Thoughts that Writer entertain'd in 1700, of the Mischiefs of dividing the Spanish Monarchy, and of the Necessity of its being kept intire without any Dismembering or Diminution: And I subjoyn'd some Facts, to shew that the late King of Spain by his Will, the Junto at Madrid by inviting the Duke of Anjou in the Name of the Spanish Nation to accept their whole Monarchy, and the French King by preferring that Will and Invitation to the Treaty of Partition, all agreed in the Truth of those Sentiments. I concluded by saying, that his most Christian Majesty to justify his own Conduct on that Occasion, caus'd the Ministers of France and Spain to declare to the States-General, that he had found it absolutely necessary to act according to the settled Maxims of the Spanish Nation in the Point of keeping their Monarchy united, and that the general Disposition of the Spaniards render'd a Partition impacticable. I shall now give some remarkable Passages of the Memoirs on this Subject which those Ambassadors presented to the States.

An Extract from the Memorial presented to the States General by the Count de Briord, Ambassador of France, the 4th of December 1700.

**I**F the States General of the united Provinces appear surpriz'd at present that the King has accepted the Will of the late King of Spain, they will soon thank his Majesty for preferring on this Occasion the publick Tranquility to the Advantages of his Crown. They need only have Time to examine with their usual Prudence the infinite Troubles which the Execution of the Treaty of Partition would produce, and the same Prudence will induce them to desist from the Demand (of that Execution) contain'd in the Memorial they have deliver'd to his Majesty's Ambassador. They will acknowledge that the Mischief of obtaining that Demand would affect all Europe; and doubtless they will judge that nothing is more contrary to the Treaty, than to depart from the spirit or Intention of it to adhere to the Letter or Terms: That Intention is declar'd in the first Articles of the Treaty to be to maintain the general Tranquility of Europe, to preserve the publick Peace, to prevent a new War, &c. The Death of the King of Spain has destroy'd the Terms or Means, and made others necessary. — And his Majesty has ground to believe, that his Allies will commend his Moderation, his Love for Peace, rather than complain of an Alteration which the publick Good requires.

The first Appearances of a War, should the Terms of the Treaty be insisted on, had actually broke out; the Spaniards jealous of preserving their Monarchy intire, prepar'd every where for Defence. The Milanese, the Kingdoms of Naples and Sicily, the Provinces and Places compriz'd in the Partition, all made ready to maintain themselves united with the Body of the Spanish Monarchy. The Nation desir'd only, for obviating a Division, a King whom they could legally acknowledge. — Had the rightfull Successor rejected the Will, Spain had been authoriz'd to submit to the Archduke; and he becoming King with the Consent of the whole Nation, the Treaty cou'd not be executed but by conquering the Kingdoms and Territories allotted to the Dauphin by the Partition: — And a King absolutely possess'd of all the Monarchy of Spain, must be reduc'd to great Extremities before he would give up the Kingdoms of Naples and Sicily, the Province of Guipulcoa, and the other Countries and Places of which the Dauphin's Share was to be compos'd. — So to preserve Peace, it was necessary to use different Means from those propos'd in making the Treaty: The most natural, the most likely to maintain the general Tranquility, the only just Means, lay in the Resolution which the King has taken to accept the Will of the late Catholic King. — Since War was inevitable, and wou'd have been unjust, had the King determin'd to adhere strictly to the Terms of the Treaty of Partition, the States General have no Cause to complain of His Majesty's preventing it by accepting the Will.

An Extract from the Memorial of Don Bernardo de Quiros, Ambassador of Spain, presented to the States General the 24th of November 1700.

**T**H E Supreme Regency of Spain have order'd this Ambassador to communicate to the States General, the Disposal of the Crown of Spain made by the Will of the late King his Master, and the Wisdom with which he has decided the important Succession to his Kingdoms. Your Lordships know better than any others what was to be consider'd in this Affair: But that which in the present Situation of Affairs deserves your special Attention and Reflection, is the GENERAL INTEREST of EUROPE; which is equally against the UNION of the TWO MONARCHIES, and the DIVISION of that of SPAIN. — This Ambassador well knows that your Lordships have not always taken it so, seeing you have not scrupled to engage in a formal Treaty for dividing the Succession; but neither are your Lordships ignorant of the just Remonstrances he has made to you on this Subject in the Name of the King his Master, and which the Event has justified. All the Princes of Europe appear'd surpriz'd at this Treaty as soon as they were inform'd of it; those of ITALY look'd upon it as a DECREE for their RUINE; and begin to form Leagues to oppose it; Part of those of Germany did the like, tho' more secretly, and others refus'd to sign it, as did the Northern Kings and the Swiss Cantons, and the Emperour (who was to receive the principal Advantage by it) rejected it absolutely after a long Delay. — Your Lordships may judge what must have been the Consequences of that Treaty, and whether Spain would have wanted Friends and Allies in the Resolution they had taken, RATHER TO PERISH UNITED WITH HONOUR, than to SUFFER THEMSELVES TO BE DISMEMBERED WITH IGNOMINY. But luckily Things have taken another Turn. — The Disinterestedness of his most Christian Majesty on this Occasion, is the more worthy of Praise in that it secures the publick Tranquility, and saves Europe from a War which was as much to be apprehended from the Treaty of Partition as from a Union of the two Crowns: it being certain that the Fundamental Maxim of Spain, ever must and will be to MAINTAIN ITSELF INTIRE, without departing from its ancient Alliances, at least while it is able to preserve them.

The French King and his Ministers were so fill'd with this Notion of the Justice and Necessity of keeping the Spanish Monarchy intire, that when he had caus'd his Troops in the beginning of 1701 to take Possession of the Places of the Spanish Netherlands, and dislodge the Dutch Garrisons, His Ambassador the Count d' Avaux thought fit (in a Memorial to the States deliver'd the 16th of February 1701) to insinuate this Reason for it among others, viz. That it had been reported the States had form'd a Project to acknowledge King Philip, on Condition the Low-Countries should be separated from the Spanish Monarchy and made over to the Archduke. Upon which however he tells their High Mightinesses, that indeed 'twas hardly credible they should think the King of Spain would buy Peace at that Rate.

All this, it seems, was substantial Reason in 1700: But now in 1709, after a bloody and expensive War of the Enemy's chusing, by which they are at length (thank Heav'n) reduc'd to the Necessity of asking Peace on the Terms the victorious Allies will please to grant, they have the Modesty to demand a new Partition for the lasting Security and Repose of Europe; Which they themselves, the Spanish Nation, the Experience of so many ruinous Wars, and the natural Situation and Circumstances of the several Potentates of Christendom (with Respect to Power, Interest, and Trade,) do all unanimously agree and prove to a Demonstration, cannot be establish'd any other Way (and indeed but barely by that) than by putting the Spanish Monarchy, intire, undivided, and undiminis'd, into the Hands of a Prince who never can incorporate his Interests and unite his Dominions with those of France.

To say all in a Word, The War was begun upon this single Question, whether the Archduke or the Duke of Anjou should have the Spanish Monarchy